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MANUSCRIPTS

FROM

The Burton Historical Collection

COLLECTED AND PUBLISHED BY

C. M. BURTON

NUMBER 2

Edited by
M. Agnes Burton

DETROIT, MICH., JANUARY, 1917

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MANUSCRIPTS AND RECORDS

FROM THE

BURTON HISTORICAL COLLECTION

VOLUME I JANUARY, 1917. NUMBER 2

(Continued from Number 1, Page 32)

The family are well and we all wish you Success and a Speedy return . —

Adieu
Dear John
yours

[Unsigned letter from John Askin, Sr.]

Detroit July 5 th 1795
John Askin Senior to
John Askin Junr.*
at Treaty Greenville
(copy)
The Original of this Letter
is said to have been
Delivered by Mr. McDougal†
to General Wayne‡

*John Askin jr. was sent as an interpreter for the Indians to Greenville.

†Probably George McDougall, son of Lieut. George McDougall and Marie Francoise Navarre. He held many prominent civil and military offices in Detroit, was popular with the French citizens and his services were greatly in demand by the farmers in the settlement of their land titles. He was born in 1766 and died about 1833. He inherited from his father a half interest in Hog Island (Belle Isle) in the Detroit River. He never married. (Mich. Pion. Colls. Vol. 36, pp. 210, 211.)

‡Gen. Anthony Wayne to whom the English surrendered Detroit and the surrounding region July 11, 1796.

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John Askin, Jr., to Col. England

Sir Detroit August 19th 1795

Being induced both from duty and inclination . I take the liberty of giving you an account of my Voyage to Fort Greenville, with what came to my knowledge while I resided there ; it will I fear be rather long , but lest the parts I might leave out would be those you wished to be acquainted with, I have thought it adviseable to insert in it every thing that appeared to me any way material

It is as follows

Several Indian Chiefs of the Chippewa and Ottawa Nation with whom I was well acquainted urged me much to accompany them to the Council at Greenville , assigning for their reasons , that as the business They were going on was of great importance to them they stood in need of a faithfull Interpreter and friend.

After obtaining my Fathers concurrence I left this on the 2d of July and when I reached Fort Defiance it was the 11 th by this time the Indians with me were Twenty Seven in number also a Mr Beaubien and a Mr Bouffet who had joined the Indians on the route

I had a cool reception from Major Hunt* who commands there but of this I was aware before my departure Mr McDougal having taken the lead who declared he would make known to the Americans my conduct during the Troubles — from this First Fort I was inclined to return , Major Hunt finding if I did that the Indians would follow me, insisted on my proceeding .

Blue Jacket† an Indian Chief who had been sent to bring forward Indians to Council, joined us here and proceeded with us , this night being the 14th Mr McDougal overtook us it was the 19th before we reached Fort Adams the 20 th we got to Fort Recovery and the 21st to Fort Greenville , soon after our arrival a Major of Dragoons, said General Wayne wished to see us, we proceeded to the Council House which is situated in the Fort, here General Wayne received us and shook hands with all the Indians — Omissas a Chippewa Chief who had been chosen to speak for the Ottawas , Pattawattomies , & his nation , asked me for a few Strings of Wampum he had given me in charge & with them made the following Speech

Brothers We the Chippewas looking over our bundles found your Strings of Wampum that had been given us at Muskingum

*Major Thomas Hunt, father of Henry Jackson Hunt, mayor of Detroit in 1826. Thomas Hunt died at Belle Fontaine, Missouri, Aug. 18, 1809. (Proceedings of the Land Board of Detroit. 1915. p. 209)

†Blue Jacket, principal warrior of the Shawanese.

and thought it time to come and see you at this great Council Fire General Wayne in return said

I am extremely happy to see you and more so to hear that you brought the Strings of Wampum gave you at Muskigum, You, Omissas spoke like an honest , Sensible , and good hearted man , and I take you again by the hand for your honesty —

Omissas to General Wayne

Brothers Should any one say that they advised us to come to this Council or say they brought us to this place , it's false we came of our own free will and have brought this English man (meaning me) with us to Repeat to us what you say in Council and that we may be instructed with every thing that will be said to us and not be so ignorant of this Council as we were of that of Muskingum

Blue Jackets Speech to General Wayne

Brothers I am extremely sorry that I have not been able to accomplish what I wished to have done owing to the numbers of bad birds who were continually whispering in my Chawanees Chiefs Ears , and have prevented them from coming sooner , however I have a bit of Tobacco from them and they sent me they would come immediately , but I cannot assure they will

General Waynes answer

Brothers I am sensible of the great Zeal and wish you have to serve the States and that you have done all in your power for them , I am well persuaded that you met great numbers of bad Birds who did all they could to prevent what you went about

July 22d — No Council

23 As I was going to the Council I was told by Mons Beaubien not to go , that the Centinel would stop me the Generals aid de Camp told him so , when I stopt the Indians stop't also & said they would not go but on my telling them it was all the same they could repeat to me at night what had passed they proceeded

July 24 The Indians gave in their answer this day with a white belt of Wampum as follows

Brothers We know nothing of the Six Thousand Dollars said to have been given the Indians at Muskingum but as for the Windotts They perhaps know of these Dollars They were accustomed to hord up all they got on these occasions & never let others know of it ——— The Windotts were displeased & begged leave to give their answer next day

25 This day General Wayne Explained that the Six Thousand Dollars were given in goods Then the Chippawas were satisfied with the Windotts and said it was true they had received presents , but thought they were given them for having buried the Hatchet and not for Lands * *

26 The Miamis spoke and said their Grand Father had given them these lands and they were told not to sell them nor give them away and of course the Tribes who had given them at

Muskigum had no right to them , and several other words to the same purpose

27 The Indians were allowed to Speak among themselves —

28 I wrote to General Wayne for a Pass to Return home and Received for answer to call next day

July 29 Waited on General Wayne he delivered me a letter from Mr. Askin which he had opened & Shewed me another asking if I knew the hand writing I said I did it was my Father's he then proceeded to read its contents to me, after he had done reading , he said he looked upon me as a spy & that I deserved death, I told him that I knew of no Spies in time of Peace , he said it was true, but he still had the power of sending me to a Fort in the Woods, and immediately ordered a party of Light Horse to take me to Fort Jefferson , he likewise ordered my papers to be examined & an Officer took out of them two Indian Deeds of Land given me in charge by Gentlemen here which he said would be returned but as yet have not

The Commanding Officer at Fort Jefferson had orders not to let me speak to any one , but in his presence nor to write to any person Except the General , to do him justice he treated me with much civility

30th& 31st — In confinement

August 1 The Indians delivered a white Belt of Wampum, requesting I might be set at Liberty , the General gave for answer that I should in Two days however the 2d. 3d. 4th. 5th & 6th elapsed but on the 7th the General wrote me a note saying I was at Liberty & in it invited me to dine with him , on the 8th I got a pass and set off and the 15th arrived here

As I was not at any of the Councils but the first I can only Speak from the Reports of the Indians and others who informed me that untill I was some days in Confinement The Indians who went out with me would neither consent to Ratify the Muskingum Treaty nor give up their Claims to the disposal of their Lands , nor I am sure ever would had I not been confined and deprived of giving them advice, but being intimidated by the threats of the General saying he would drive them back into the Sea if They did not acquiesce in his demands and seeing the other Nations (from fear and persuation of some of our Canadian & English Friends) Agree They at last did the same prior to my being released

The Treaty so far as I could learn was that They confirmed the Muskingum Treaty and added to it all the Lands situated on the South side of the Miamis River, They sold six miles square near where Fort Williams is situated Twelve miles Square at and about were to be given up and such small Spots about them as the English had purchased , & that They should have that matter cleared up, which they accordingly did next day and it was then

acknowledged to them that our Government had not given over their Lands

It was Reported at my Departure that very soon After a party of Americans were to come by Land to the Spott purchased up the River of Razin & take Post there likewise at Sundaskey to Build a Fort —

I am with Sin Respect
Sir
Your Most Obedient very Humble
Servant
[unsigned letter of John Askin jr.]

Colonel England*
24 Regt.

Commandant of Detroit & its Dependences
Endorsed: Detroit Augt. 19th, 1795
Jno. Askin Junr. to Colo England
a Report of his Voyage to Fort Greenville

(Copy)

Vol. 3 Page 186

Proclamation of General Wilkinson

Whom it may Concern

By the Treaty at Greenville concluded in August last by Major General Waynne on the part of the United States with all the Indian Tribes Resident South & East of the Lakes it is Stipulated that the Indians shall not alienate their Lands either by sale or Donation without the Consent of the United States It follows from this Stipulation that all Donations or Sales made Subsequent to the Said Treaty are Contrary to Compack and of course invalid I utter this Testimonial at the instance of a Potewatemie Chief Okia in order to save him & other chiefs the Importunities (to which he had assured me they are exposed) of ignorant or designing persons for grants of their Lands , Given at Greenville 31 May 1796

Witness my hand & seal
(Signed) James Wilkinson†
Brig. General in the
(Seal) Army of ye — United States

*Col. Richard England, commanding officer at Detroit from 1792 to the evacuation July 11, 1796.

†Brig. Gen. James Wilkinson accompanied Wayne's expedition to Detroit. Wayne left Wilkinson in charge of the forces of that place when he departed. In 1805 he was made governor of Louisiana. He was courtmartialed for trouble with Burr but acquitted. He was born in Maryland in 1757 and died near Mexico, Dec. 28, 1825.

Vol. 5 Page 245

Alexander Henry to John Askin

Montreal 9 th May 1799

Dear Askin

I received your favor of January am Happy to find your Health and Spirits are so good , for me my Health is not so good as usual, and I have Symptoms of old age advancing rapidly — so much that unless I see you this summer I am affraid I never will , but I have no reason to complain since on calculation since my time there has been Two Thousand Million buried a few years can make no difference if we can only approve of our conduct while here we need fear nothing hereafter — Hope and Reliance on Providence is all we can do — there is no fear of our being worse treat—than others — I seem to be more anxious to know whether you and I will ever meet there — than any thing else — our old friend Isaac Todd is going to Niagara and expects to meet you there — was it not for a voyage to New York which I must make I would go also was it only to see you I am informed the President has ordered a Council to be held at Detroit this to hear the Complaints of the Indians — but I think nothing will do — congress is selling the Lands on Lake Erie to the Westward of the N England Grant —

William Robinson is here busy nursing his child and taking care of his wife —

by Gentlemen who this day arrived from London in February bring account of Deer skin Sale . they did very well much the same as last — but bad appearance for Raccoons dont you send any here if Possible for they will sell badly — good Musrats will bring from 20 to 22 Sols — here — there is no account of other furs , if Raccoons sells badly . Detroit Trade must be injur'd and the N W Company on account of opposition it is said intends to send quantity of Goods to Detroit & Makinac to sell at cost & Charges , because Forsyth & Co interfers with their trade in the North , the War seems to have commenced between them , like the french Derectory they will not allow any kings but themselves —as for Politics , things , seem not to stand so favorable as they did at the close of the last year, the french has obliged the King of Naples to leave his Kingdom of which they have Possession Boanaparta still seems to have Possession of Egypt — and it is suposed the french will not stop untill they have taken all the continent of Europe , the Idea of Liberty and equality is still gaining ground — England is intending to make a Union with Ireland which will I suspect be a sad business before it is settled as the Irish is much against it, and even our friend Isaac disaproves of the English craming the Irish with what they dont like .

I am sorry I have nothing to amuse you farther my family is all well and joins in best wishes for yours —
dont forget my best respects to Mrs McKee* who I would be glad to see —

and remain while there is a spark remaining
your sincere friend

ALEXANDER HENRY†

John Askin Esquire at Detroit.

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Jacob Burnet to Solomon Sibley

Cincinnati June 17th 1799

My dear Sir,

I have delayed writing you on the subject of the Writ of Error —Brook Vs Williams, on a supposition that I should have had the pleasure of seeing you in Detroit before now— but Judge Symmes, who undertook to ride that Circuit, finding it inconvenient to perform the duty, has found an apology for staying at home, in the supposed hostile designs of the Indians—I argued the error assigned for the reversal of the Judgment, and from the clearness of the Authorities, I had not a doubt of success—but Symmes observing that the Court ought to look more at the circumstances of the Case, than to the authorities in the Books, and observing that it would discourage the Court of Wayne County, if so many of the Judgments were reversed (a reason which ought to damm him to all eternity as a Judge,) ordered the Judgments to be affirmed—Symmes‡ at the same time said that there was no proof that the Voucher referred to in the Report, was not produced—I then moved that the opinion of the Court might be withheld, till proof of that fact could be obtained, but the Courts would not grant the motion, I then moved that Execution might be stayed as to the sum for which the Voucher was to have been produced—which they granted—and left the Judgment as to that sum subject to the futher Order of the Court—by this I think they are placed in an awkward situation—as it will be difficult for them to know how to proceed—

* * * * *

*Mrs. McKee, Therese, the oldest daughter of John Askin and Marie Archange Barthe and wife of Thomas McKee, a great favorite of Mr. Henry.

†Alexander Henry, the trader and adventurer who was at Michilimackinac at the time of the massacre of the garrison in 1763. His adventures are published in book form.

‡John Cleves Symmes (1742-1814), b. on Long Island; d. in Cincinnati; delegate from Delaware to Continental congress, 1785; 1786, judge of superior court of New Jersey; afterwards chief justice of New Jersey; 1787, appointed judge of Northwest territory; 1788, obtained grant of 1,000,000 acres from government, bounded on the south by Ohio river, and on the west by Miami river; founded Cincinnati; married daughter of Gov. William Livingston; his daughter, wife of William H. Harrison.

I have entered an apparance for Capt Ernest, and taken a rule on the Plef to declare in 90 days—if he files a Declaration. I intend to plead privilege, as a Judge of the Court of Com Pleas etc
Presents my Respects to my Friends, and believe me

Yours Sincerely
JAC BURNET*—

N B. The Defeat of the French
by the Austrians appears
to be confirmed—

Address:
Solomon Sibley Esqr†
Attorney at Law
Detroit

Endorsed on back:
J. Burnetts letter recd. 27th July 1799—
Ansd. this letter July 28th 1799—

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Solomon Sibley to James May

Detroit Augt. 28th. 1799—

To James May Esq.

Sir—

I have just Recd. your note of the 27th. Instant, notifing me of your intentions to take depositions relative to the contested Elections between us—& that you should attend to the same at the house of Mr. Dodemeads, the last week of the setting of the Court—The business in which I am engaged during the Setting of the Court, renders it rather inconvenient for me to attend at that time—However I will willingly reverse that objection for the purpose of obliging you—You will see Sir, if you take the trouble to examine the resolve of the House, (a copy of which I enclose you in a letter soon after I arrived from Cincinnati) that

*Jacob Burnet (1770-1853), b. in Newark, N. J.; d. in Cincinnati, O.; 1791, graduated at Princeton; 1796, admitted to bar; 1796, came to new settlement, Cincinnati, O.; member of legislative council of territory, 1799—until it became state; 1812, member of state legislature; 1821-8, judge of supreme of Ohio; 1828-31, U. S. senator; first president of Colonization society of Cincinnati; instrumental in bringing about legislation to alleviate financial distress of purchasers of western lands, indebted to the government; drew up memorial to congress, proposing release of back interest and permission to settlers to relinquish as much of land entered as they were unable to pay for. Memorial approved by inhabitants of Ohio and Mississippi valleys and congress granted relief, 1821; published, 1847, "Notes on the Early Settlement of the Northwest Territory."

†Solomon Sibley (1769-1846) came to Detroit, Mich., in 1798 with the intention of practicing law. He held many important positions, was mayor of the city, auditor of the territory, delegate to congress and judge. Many of his descendants are still living in Detroit.

certain persons therein named are appointed Commissioners, before whom the depositions are, to be taken, in order to entitle them to credit before the house—Neither the Court nor any other person except the Commissioners have such power—It will be necessary for you if you have not a day & place, when & where, they will attend for the purpose—Their convenience & pleasure as the subject must be known, previous to a regular notification—I make these remarks, in consequence of having this day applied to Capt Ernst President of the Commission, to know if application have been made to him, by you on the Subject—Capt Ernst informed me you have not spoken to him relative to the Business—

The moment the Commissioners appoint the day & place, I shall be ready to receive your notification—& shall myself immediately notify you to attend to hear the evidence I intend to take on my part—Ten days notice thereof in writing necessary by the resolve—I propose to leave this place for Cincinnati, immediately after the Court rises—The Session of the assembly Opening at Cincinnati on the 20 of September, renders a further delay impossible—

I am Sir your very humble Servant
SOL. SIBLEY

Copy of a letter
Written J May*
Augst. 28th 1799
relating to the contested election enclosing his note to me

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William Brown to Solomon Sibley

D'Etroit Nov. 24th 1799

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 22nd Oct. was handed me by Mr. Schuffelin† ten Days Since, the Papers you mentioned of having Sent Col. Strong‡ have not yet arrived; the loss of which in anticipation is

*James May was marshal of the territory, justice of peace, colonel of militia, first chief justice of the court of common pleas and held many other important positions at Detroit. He came from England in 1778 aged 22 years. On Sept. 30, 1797 he married Margaret Labadie. At the time of the fire in Detroit (1805) his losses were inventoried at $1,000. After the fire he collected all the stones which composed the chimneys of the old town and built a house which in 1836 was used as a hotel, the Mansion House on Jefferson Ave. He was a very large man, weighing 340 lbs. His eighth child, Augusta Caroline, married Alexander D. Frazer of Detroit. Mr. May died Jan. 19, 1829, aged 73 yrs. (Proceedings of the Land Board of Detroit. 1915.)

†Jacob Schieffelin was born in Philadelphia in 1757. He was secretary on Hamilton's staff at Detroit during the Revolution. In 1783 he with other Loyalists went to Canada where he engaged in business as a merchant at Montreal. In 1794 he bought out the drug business of his brother-in-law in New York and took John B. Lawrence, another brother-in-law into partnership.

‡Col. David Strong served in the Revolution and in Wayne's army. He died Aug. 19, 1801.

very considerable, No doubt they contain some of the laws by which we may consider ourselves in future to be governed, we have scarce learnt any subject mater of your deliberations 'tho frequently hear of your having multiplicity of business before your honourable body—you boast of a number of good Men among them the small number that compose your Honourable *house* May heaven grant you may all be wise during so important a Period—I doubt not of your finding the Task of Legislating in some degree as difficult as that of putting the laws in execution—All are looking to you as to wise Men for all that is Possible to be received, and for more than can be given. your own wisdom and prudence, will best guard you against the shafts of those that would be willing to injure you.—Was sorry to hear in yours that Mr. Visgar† was in so desperate an act as that of *Vomiting* am flattered of his having been convalescent long before this time, and inabled to render his country & Constitutents an essential Service —I shall attend with Pleasure to your Property in my care as you have or may Derict—Think Mr. Fruman must have appeared some what natural as he was in his *old Trim.*—

Politicks have remained in Statuquo as relates to Civil & Military affairs untill of late, when the Subject of Danceing was brot up Party arose with redoubled Vigour more general if possible than what it has been heretofore, the prospect at present appears still more gloomy as to the appearance of the Civil and Military being united than it was since my arrival in this place—

The Gentlemen of D'Etroit say Citizens & B. Subjects united invited the Military Gentleman to a Ball Believing they would have universally joined us but so pointedly were their resolutions that not a single Person who wears the colour of a Faceing made their appearance but some were so active as to persuade the ladies instance Miss Fearsons* not to come Others as I am informed offerd. to bribe the Music to no effect—Huntington was one of the Managers feels himself not well pleased at this singular proceedings—the ball was conducted with much propriety—Accompanied with the kind Auspicious of an excellent supper & Excellent Wine an agreeable Company tho not numerous

The Gentleman of the Garrison have now a ball a brewing the particulars of which would tire your patience to read & more so mine to write—

†Jacob Visger came from Schnectady, N. Y., in 1788 and married Agatha Cicotte in 1792. His Dutch name was probably Visscher. He was justice of the Court of Common Pleas in 1801, member of the Grand Jury that investigated Gov. Hull in 1809 and justice of peace in 1821. He died in April 1823 and on June 9th the same year his son Joseph was appointed guardian of Agatha, widow of Jacob. Their son Joseph was born in 1794 and married Ann Godfroy in 1819. Their daughter Catherine was born in 1795 and married Whitmore Knaggs in 1819. C. M. B.

*The Misses Fearson were daughters of Capt. John Fearson, who came to Detroit from Salem, Mass. in 1793. Capt. Fearson was born in England. (Proceedings of the Land Board of Detroit.)

We little expect your return soon as you mentioned believing the affairs of the Teritory to necessarily detain you a much longer time—

I have a copy of the Governors Speach to the Indians which I believe does not rellish too well with some of our *Folks*—Be good enough to drop us a line every opportunity of what is going on in your grand Counsell & oblige your Friend

W Brown†

P.S.

Hear but little of Law, Mr. Richd. Conner‡ wishes to retain you in an action against Messers Wiswell & Clemmons on acct. of Lands near the Distillery—Says he will give you a Fee as soon as you return or at any time after, will give you a round one—have not enquired any of the particulars but suppose it a Yankee Trick —believe the Lean Bond or paper without a Stamp

—One Colo. & three Captains have come to this part from Mackina with a few men

The report is that A—is Displaced & that the French Judges have Resigned the Commissioners do not know what we will do for a Court

By same the Court will be opened and adjourd Sina Dia—Vessels which have been at fort Erie for more than six weeks are hourly expected—Huntington sends his Compliments says he has written you but recd no answers—for the want of place in this must close this long epistle by wishing you success in getting a wife not with standing your sad Disapointment

am Dear Sir your Obt.
Humble Servt
Wm Brown

N B

My respects to Mr. Visger

Addressed:

Solomon Sibley Esquire
in assembly
Cincinnati

pr Mr. Simpson

†William Brown was born in Massachusetts in 1773 and came to Detroit in 1798, where he practiced medicine and cared for the Indians in the vicinity for many years free of charge. He held many important positions in the town. At the time of the fire (1805) he lost heavily. He lived for a while on the corner where the present Hotel Pontchartrain stands. He never married. (Proceedings of the Land Board of Detroit.)

‡Richard Connor was an Indian trader and interpreter. He came to Detroit with the Moravians in 1781 and settled on lands belonging to the Chippewas at the site of Mount Clemens. When the Moravians left that place Richard Connor and his family remained and took some of the lands. C. M. B.

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Jacob Visger to Solomon Sibley

Detroit 14th Januy 1800

Sir,

I have wrote you a long letter but am apprehensive not so explicit as I would wish it to be, I returned from the River Reasin last Evening—Unfortunately Judge Navarre* is unwell of the Rumitism, it is out of his power to persue his voyage to Cincinnati Agreeable to the conversation passed between us when at Cincinnati concerning the appointments of Militia Officers, (immediately upon my arrival at this place) I requested the attendance of the principle Officers of the Militia, and other respectable Free holders and pointed out to them the necessity of Recommending Persons eligible to fill the promotions in the Militia of this Country

They have Recommend to his Exelly the following Persons to Wit Lieutenant Colonal Chabert Joncair**, as "Brigadier General"—Major Jean Bt. Cicot† Lieutenant Colonal Commandant Johnathan Schuffelin Esq Inspecter & Brigade Major Captain Gabriel Godfrey‡ 1st Major Captain Navare 2nd Major or in case Captain Navare would decline to Recommend Mr. McDougall Mr Navare has desired me to mention to you that he would rather if agreeable to the Governor that McDougall should be appointed I hope you will use your influence to get the above appointments confirmed, and in so doing You will oblige Your friends and the Citizens of this place,

I am Sir Your Very humble
Servant
Jacob Visger

Addressed:
Solomon Sibley Esquire
per Kelly Cincinnati

*Probably Jean Marie Alexis Navarre, son of Robert Navarre the Royal Notary at Detroit during its French occupation.

**Francois Joncaire dit Chabert, born in 1757, married at Detroit in 1780 to Marie Josette Chene. He died on Nov. 24, 1813.

†The Cicot (Cicotte) family was one of the oldest in Detroit. The founder Jean came to Detroit in 1730 as a merchant. The Godfroy farm was once owned by the Cicottes. As a family they figured prominently in the development of the town. Jean Bt. Cicot later moved to Monroe Co. where he was sheriff in 1824. In 1825 he was a candidate for the Legislative Council, nominated for associate justice in 1826 and died before Feb. 9, 1833. (C. M. B.)

‡Capt. Gabriel Jacques Godfroy was born Nov. 10, 1785, and died Aug. 31, 1833. He was one of the signers of the Round Robin to depose Gen. Hull as governor at Detroit. Cass appointed him one of the paymasters for the Indians for which he was allowed $2.00 a day. He was Indian agent, interpreter, fur trader, merchant and occasionally acted as guide to remote parts such as Chicago. He lost heavily at the fire in Detroit (1805). In 1815 he was living on the north east corner of Woodward Ave. and Woodbridge St. The house was removed to the foot of Griswold street in 1833-4. (Mich. Pioneer Colls. Vol. 37, pp. 360 448, 453)

Vol. 9 Page 136.

Gen. W. Johnson to John Askin

Vincennes January 19th 1801

Sir

I was favoured with yours of the 19th of September last on the evening of the 22nd. of December Ulto. by my Wife.

The manner and situation in which I received the Letter Which I have just alluded to, is Somewhat Cruel, and must be shocking to the most vulgar *ear,* when informed of the Circumstances—

You will pardon the liberty which I shall now take of giving you a few Proofs of the Vilanous and degraded character of the same Mr. McIntosh, who you have employed to Settle your Affairs in this Country, without I am Well persuaded, of having any, or a very trifling acquaintance With his character, and but little with his person.

Your favor above alluded to Was directed to me, pr. Mons. Hunoth† Who on his arrival to this place, not being personally acquainted with me handed my Letter to Mr. McIntosh, who immediately opened it and read it, as he afterwards acknowledged to my Wife, on his handing her the Letter, alledging as a petiful excuse, that he *thought* the Letter was directed to him—

Christ God! Can it be supposed by any person possessed of a Common understanding, that a person of Mr. McIntosh's Information could possibly be mistaken in the superscription of a Letter, and one too so legible as that which you intended I should be favored With.

No my Dear Friend, the truth is, that Mr McIntosh on this Occasion, as well as many others, forgetting that respect which was due you, not only as a Gentelman, but from the Confidence and Trust which you had reposed in him, and being guided by the most degraded Principles of Jealiousy for fear, that you had Wrote to me, something concerning him & your affairs in this Country—which might in some measure be burthensome to his designs, under a full persuation that every man was possessed with the same, or similar Principle of degradation, Which he himself is possessed of—This I am well persuaded my Dr Sir, Was his Motive, for breaking open the Seal of your Letter:

I am truly obliged to you for your Friendly offer, of raising me in some measure, above the Caprice of my Friends, & the Spleen

†Gabriel Hunoth (Hunot) was early employed as victualer for the Miami Company and stationed on the Huron River.

of my enemies; for which I shall ever conceive myself under due Obligation to your good intention. But Sir, the business which you allude to, in your Letter Was immediately on the arrival of Mr. Mc. Intosh, Put by him into the hands of a Mr Hurst of this place.

I am
Sir Your mo. Obt.
Hub. Servt.
GEN W JOHNSON*.

John Askin E/.
Recd. ye: 11th Feb. 1801
Addressed:
John Askin Esquire
Merchant
Detroit.
P. favr. of
Mr Druard.
Endorsed on back:
Post Vincent Jan. 19th 1801
General W Johnston to Jno. Askin
Feb. 11th.†

*Gen. W. Johnson was a native of Culpepper Co., Va. He located in Vincennes in 1783; was a prominent member of the bar; filled many offices of trust and was twice president judge of Knox Circuit Court. He died Oct. 26, 1833.

(†*Editor's Note.*—The foregoing manuscripts are all copied from originals in the Burton Historical Collection. They are selected for the purpose of giving the reader a partial idea of the scope of the collection. Many of the manuscripts are mounted and fill over 1200 volumes of 250 pages each. The papers have been collected from several sources and divided into groups signifying their origin, as the Askin papers, the Woodbridge papers, the Williams papers, the Sibley papers, etc. Besides the papers there are journals, account books, registers, and letter books, which will be printed in time.)

A REVOLUTIONARY HEROINE

Photostats—Files of House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

Petition Deborah Gannett*

12th Feby. 1810.
Refd. to the Committee on the petition of Thomas Campbell

27 March 1810
Reported on and rejected

To the Honourable, the Senate, and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress Assembled:—

The Petition of the Subscriber humbly shews that, whereas she having served as a Continental Soldier in the Army of the United States, during three years, in the late American Relvolution, and there borne on the rolls by the name of, *Robert Shirtliff* and at the conclusion of the Peace in 1783, was regularly discharged from said army she having faithfully preformed the duties of a soldier—and that, during that time of service for her Country, She received *Wounds,* by which she has been disabled from performing the common occupations of life, as other wise She might have done,—and that, in consequence thereof, She has been placed on the Pension List by the Commissioner of loans and Agent for Pensions in the State of Massachusetts, from January 1803 Your Petitioner, therefore, prays, that these honorable Bodies with duty consider this subject together with the concomitant circumstances, to which She alludes, and that She may be entitled to the further

*Deborah Gannett, before her marriage, Deborah Sampson, was born at Plymouth, Mass. Dec. 17, 1760 and died at Sharon, Mass. April 29, 1827. She served in the Revolution as claimed in the petition. She was wounded in a skirmish at Tarrytown. During Yorktown Campaign she was seized with brain fever, was taken to a hospital at Philadelphia and it was at that time that her identity was discovered. In 1797 she published a narrative of her life in the army under the title "The Female Review" Dedham 1797. A new edition was published in Boston in 1866. She married Benjamin Gannett April 7, 1785 at Stoughton, Mass. In 1802 she made a tour through Massachusetts and New York giving a lecture on her experiences. (Sharon Historical Society 1905)

consideration of having her pension-pay commenced at the time of other pensions belonging to the said American Army, as the law has made and provided.—

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.—

Signed Deborah Gannett

Sharon, Dec. 15 1809.

Mr. Milnor

Report of the Committee to whom was referred on the 12th ult the petition of Deborah Gannett — alias Robert Shirtliff.

27th March 1810
Concurred in, and petition rejected

The committee to whom was referred the petition of Deborah Gannett report, That the petitioner states that she served three years as a soldier in the army in the revolutionary war under the name of Robert Shirtliff—that in the course of said service she was wounded & in consideration thereof she was placed upon the pension list in the year 1803. The petitioner prays that she may be allowed a sum equal to her pension from the conclusion of the war up to the time when she was placed on the pension list. The committee believes it to have been an established principle for some years past only to allow pensions to commence from the time when proof of the disability of the party has been exhibited, & that this house has in repeated instances of individual application for back pensions adhered to this principal. The Committee have not thought it necessary to enter into an inquiry respecting the justice or policy of this general regulation, in as much as the House have not directed their attention to such inquiry, but they have no hesitation in giving it as their opinion, that if any thing is to be done for the payment of back pensions, it should be a general & not a partial measure. Under this impression your committee submit the following resolution.

Resolved that the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

PAUL REVERE* AND TARIFF ON COPPER

Photostats—Files of House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

Petition of Paul and Joseph W. Revere, of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts

---

24th February, 1807.
Ordered to lie on the table.

2d November 1807
referred to Commerce & Manufactures.

21st. January, 1808
Report made, considered, and Bill ordered.

2nd Session 12 Congress 1812
Petitions of Paul & Joseph W Revere and John R Levingston. praying for a imposition of a duty on Copper bolts—Copper Sheathing & etc

---

The Clerk is requested to have recorded in the record books of the Committee of Com. & Manufactures two letters on
Quincey
(to lie)
Com & m

*Paul Revere of Revolutionary fame and his son Joseph Warren Revere were among the first in the United States to apply themselves to the manufacture of metal things. At an early date they made bells, cannon and bolts, etc., needed in the building and equipping of ships for the navy. They invented a process of treating copper that enabled them to hammer and roll it when heated, thus greatly facilitating the manufacture of bolts and spikes. The most important achievement of Joseph was that of rolling copper into large sheets. Joseph Warren Revere established the first copper rolling mill in the country and founded the Revere Copper Co. which was incorporated in 1828. Paul Revere was born in Boston Jan. 1, 1735 and died there May 10, 1818. His son Joseph Warren was born April 30, 1777 and died at Canton Oct. 11, 1868 aged 92 years.

To the Honourable Senate and the Honourable Hous of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled

The petition of the subscribers, Citizens of Boston, Massachusetts.

Humbly sheweth.

That by dint of close application and great expence they have attained to the knowledge of smelting and refining Copper Ores; and manufactureing of Copper into Sheets, Bolts, Spikes, Nails etc for fastning Ships; a Specimens of which were deposited in the Office of the Secretary of the Navy, in the year 1802.

That to assist their experiments and Study's in the Manufactureing of Copper, they have visited the Copper Mines in Sweden, and England, France, Holland and

That at a very great expense they have errected Furnaces, Mills, and other Works for manufactureing the above articles; that they believe they are the only persons in the United States that have accomplished this object, 'tho many have attempted it.—That by ambiguity in the Revenue Law Copper in sheets is admitted Free by some of the Collectors, 'tho *all* Manufactures of Copper are charged with a duty of 17 1/2 P Ct.

The Law says, Copper in Plates, Pigs, & Barrs, are Free this without doubt was intended to include Copper in a Raw State only; Yet the Collectors admit, manufactured Sheets Free; but charge a duty on the same article, if it has been taken from a Vessells bottom out of the United States after it is worn out.

Your petitioners have no doubt that they can supply the whole quantity at present imported into the United States, provided Government gives them their Support.

We there fore pray that your Honours will cause the same duty to be imposed on Copper Manufactured into Sheets, as, upon other Copper Manufactures.—And that *all* Old Copper imported into the United States (which is a Raw Material) shall be free from duty.

And as in duty Bound will allways pray

Paul Revere
Joseph W Revere

Boston Feby. 12 1807

Petition of Paul & Joseph W. Revere Copper Smiths of Boston.

---

27 Decemr. 1810
to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

30th Decemr. 1811.
Refd to the comee. of Commerce & manufrs.

Plates bars & bolts of Copper prays that a duty of 17 1/2 per. Cent may be laid

---

6 February, 1813.
Refd to the Comee of Commerce and Manufactures:

Mr Bigham
rep commerce
Mr Quiney
rep Commerce & M

To The Honourable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled.

The Petition of the subscribers Citizens of Boston in the Common Wealth of Massachusetts.

Humbly Sheweth—

That when the revenue laws regulating the duties on Copper was made. No Vessels was fastened on their bottoms sheathed with Copper *Neither* was it then known copper *could be manufactured* into suitable State to fasten Ships—

That it has since become an article of immense amount in our Imports. and owing to the ambiguety of the Law. The Goverment have been deprived of great Revenue. the Law saying Copper in *Plates, Pigs* & *Bars* free. Copper manufactured a Duty of 17 & 1/2 P Cent—

That under the names of Plates. & Bars. Copper Bolts and sheathing have been admitted free as a Raw material Whereas both are fully manufactured and should be subject to the duty imposed on Copper Manufactures.

That your Petitioners by close application and great expence (Having visited the Copper mines in England, Wales & Sweden

and the Manufactureings of Copper in England, Sweden Holland and France.) have atained the Knowledge of Smelting Copper Ores, Melting Refining and Manufactureing of Copper.

That they have errected furnaces, Mills and other works for the manufactureing *Bolts, Spikes Nails* and Sheathing, Copper.

That when your petitioner errected these works (which was done at the particular Request of the Govt of the United States who advanced in the Year 1802, ten thousand dollars to compleat them) A duty was collected on Copper Bolts by all Collectors and on Sheathing by some—

But by a late decision of the Supreme Court of the United States Bolts have been admitted free.

That since that decision more Bolts have been imported than all that was ever imported before the imported not being able to undersell while the duty was Collected.

That your petitioners have manufactured in one year nearly 200000ths of Bolts and if the demand was equal to it they could with there present establishment manufacture three times the quantity.

That when they Petitioned your Honourable Body in the year 1807. It was not the wish of your petitioners to have a duty on *Plates. Bottoms* & etc etc for Copper-Smiths Use. But on sheathing which is fully manufactured and which goes to the ship wright in the Case which it is imported in. They therefore Pray that your Honours would take this into your consideration and cause the same duty to be collected from Copper Bolts and sheathing Copper as from other Copper Manufactures.

And as in duty bound will ever Pray.

Paul Revere
Joseph. W. Revere

Boston 10 December 1810

RECORD OF MARRIAGES IN MARYLAND AND DELAWARE 1789-1804 BY GEORGE MOORE

From Original in Burton Historical Collection.

List of Marriages by Licence in the State of Maryland in the Yeare 1789 by Me George Moore

July 9th was Married William Grace and Elisabeth Moore

Jams Haley and Mary Robinett was Married October 12th 1789

Samuel Penington and Sarah Etherington was Married November 5th. 1789

Nicholas George Manliy and Millicent Kinkiy was Married December 23rd. 1789

John Kirk and Sarah Roberts was Married December 27th. 1789

John Clayton and Isabella Simmonds was Married January the Twenty Sixth. 1790

Jams Manly and Lydia Liason was Married March the thirteenth 1790

Thomas Hewett and Mary Shawn was Married March the Twenty Eight 1790

Charles Shahawn and Mary Vansant was Married April the first 1790

John Manly and Susannah Cox was Married April the Fifteenth 1790

Thomas Walmsley and Rebecca Jams was Married April, the Twenty Second 1790

John Duffoy and Martha Hance was Married August the Nineteeth 1790

Simon Pryor Jons and Sarah Galloway Thrift was Married August the Nineteenth 1790

William McDowell and Jean Dougherty was August the Twenty fourth 1790

Hugh Young and Elenor Durham was Married December the Twenty third 1790 Harford County

Elijah Eliason and Tobitha Bristow was Married December the Thirtyeth 1790

William Miers and Jerusha Falconar was Married August the Eighteenth 1791

John Tompson and Catherin Homer was Married October Eighteenth 1791

Moses Toenir and Elizabeth Cohee was Married October Twenty Ninth 1791

Tarbutt Jackson and Mary Rogers was Married January y. 29th 1792

John Roggester and Sarah George was Married february the fourth 1792

Joseph Oliver and Rainey Gibbs was Married february the Twenty sixth 1792

Ephraim Cooper and Mary Sartain was married the Fifth Day of May in the Year Seventeen Hundred and Ninety Two

John Beard and Rachel Mansfield was married the fifth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Ninety two

James Fletcher and Comfort Messeck was married January the eleventh 1793

William Hackett and Cornelia Pennington was Married October the Twelfth. Day 1793

Abraham Comegys and Ann Smith was married the Tenth Day of December 1793

Hance Severson and Rebecca Price was married the Twelfth Day of December 1793

John Gears and Sarah Husler was married the Nineteenth Day of December in the Year 1793

William Thompson and Hosanna Penington was married the Twenty Sixth of December 1794

William Logue and Ann Smith was married January ye 1st 1795

Richard Rochester and Rebecca Pratt was married the first Day of January 1795

Lambert Sappington and Mary Wilson was married January the fifteenth 1795

Benjamin Elliott and Margaret Crouch was married the twenty Sixth Day of January 1795

Nathaniel Colder (Colver) and Sarah Spearman was married the first Day February 1795

Thomas Crouch and Mary Sewell was married the Twenty fifth Day of June 1795

Peregrine Glenn and Mary Ann Briscoe was married the Twenty Sixth Day of June 1795

Thomas Farmer and Rachel Lasley was married the Ninth Day of September 1795

Archabald McNeal and Frances Allen was married September the Twelth Day 1795

William McDaniel and Milecent Cornelius was married the twenty fourth Day of September 1795

William Davidson and Ann Jury was married the twenty Second Day of October Seventeen hundred and Ninety five Returned

John Taylor and Sarah Gay was married the fourteenth Day of February 1796

Richard Barniby and Mary Allen was married the Twelfth Day of July 1796

William Brown and Elizbeth Etherington was married the twenty Eight Day of July 1796

Rudolph Gonee and Elisabeth Heaver (Header) was married the Twenty Seventh D of October 1796 Returned

Joseph Jarvis and Elizabeth Barnaby was married the tenth Day of December 1796

William White and Ann Redgrove was married the Eight Day of January 1797

John Davis and Sarah Vansant was married the Twenty third Day of february 1797

Joseph Penington and Ann Penington was married the Second Day of March 1797

William Duyer and Elizabet Briscoe was Married the Eleventh Day of May 1797

Joseph Reed and Elixabeth Hurtt was married August the Thirtieth Day 1797

returned this list

William Smith and Ann Haward was married the twentyeth. Day of March 1798

Joseph Ozier and Elizabth Stuart was married May y first 1798

Joshua Vansant and Ann Davis was married the Tenth Day of May 1798

Ebenezer Eliason and Rebecca Carnan was married June the Twelfth 1798

William Horney and Nelly McCarty was married the Twenty Second Day of September 1798 returned this list

Gilbert Christfield and Mary Redgrave was married January the Sixth Day 1799

Jams Conner and Elizabeth Campbell was married the thirteenth Day of January 1799

Aquilla Meekes and Ann Cannell was married March the Seventeenth 1799

Nathaniel Sappington and Hannah Meeks was married May the Twenty Sixth 1799

John Mahannah and Elizabeth Lasly was married the twentieth Day of July 1799

Darius Copper and Mary Watts was married the twentifouth Day of November 1799

William Davis and Elizabeth Cherrington was married ninth Day of December 1799

Jeremiah Hinton and Rebecca Melson was married the Twentininth Day of December 1799

John Reed and Elizabeth Jeffers was married the Eighteenth Day of March 1800

Christopher Ruth and Elizabeth Miers was married the Eight Day of April 1800

William Kendall and Rebecca Johnson was married the Twentieth Seventh Day of May 1800

Caleb Kerbey and Maria Sharpless was Married August the Thirtifirst 1800

John Hines and Susan Russel was married September the Twenty fourth 1800

John Watts and Elizabeth Ricketts was married November y 30th 1800

John McFeely and Elizabeth Bateman was married December the Twenty Eight 1800

Robert Boyles and Elizabeth Hammon was married January the Ninth 1801

Benjamin Howard and Rahel Greenwood was married February the fifth 1801

George Way and Ann Tuttle was married March the Nineenth 1801

Francis Mussey and Milcha Ussleton was married May the Eleventh 1801

William Pope and Elizabeth Hopkins was married November the Ninth 1801

John Stavely and Elisabeth Rayner was married January the the Twenty Six 1802

Jams Grant and Catharine Reading was married January the Thirtiy first 1802

Edward Hines and Elizabeth Copper was married the Thirtieth Day of December 1802

John Dawney and Marea Duyer was married the fifth Day of January 1804

Caleb Read and Polly Greenwood was married the Twelfth Day of February 1804

Theophilus Russel and Ann Tittle was married the first Day of April 1804

Joseph Harper and Martha Meeks was married the Thirtieth Day August 1804

Labert W. Spencer and Ann Spencer was married the Thirteenth Day September 1804

John Harmon and Arimanta Eliason was married the twentieth Second Day of march 1810

John Dill and Hanny Dill was married June the first Day 1804

List of Marrges by Publication in the Delaware State in the Yeare 1789

by me George Moore May y 3nd Peter Ritch and Rodey Hardinigth.

John Herrington and Hannah Marshel was Married february the Seventh 1791 York County State of Pensylvania

Jesse Fowler and Lucretia McCrackin was married Delaware State Susex County December the Twentieth 1792

List of Marrages by License in the State Dellaware, in the Year 1788 by Me George Moore

November 2nd Ambroius Haindsley and Ann Herrington

William Clark and Mary Mears was married March y fifth One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Nine

Benjaman Robards and Nessa Rothwell was Married October 8th 1789

William Kelley and Jane Ray was Married January the Sixteenth 1790

Benjaman Griffith and Mary Moore was Married January the twenty Sixth 1790

Robard Gutrey and Rachel Biddel was Married february the twenty Second 1790

William Pollard and Ann Egleson was Married the Eighteenth Day of June 1790

Robart Appleton and Line Read was Married the Sixteenth Day of September 1790

John Wright and Maacha Low was Married february the Sixth 1791 York County State of Pennsylvania

John Carnan and Rebecca Hynson was married the thirteenth Day of December 1798

William Bolton and Mary Darling was married November the Thirtieth 1802

(The Following Items Are in the Same Book But Are in Another Handwriting)

William Watson & Catharine Riley was Married the 21 October 1811

William Watson Died October the 28 1815 Aged 34

Mary Jane Watson was born May 19th 1813

William George Watson was Born March the 25 1815

Catherine Watson died September 23 1870

DOCUMENTS ON EARLY INDIANA HISTORY

Genl. Hamtramck* U. S. A. 1792

From Original in Burton Historical Collection, Vol. 457, Page 201.

Fort Knox† Post Vincennes
Jany. 4th. 1792.

Dear General,

I have been sent by Governor St Clair‡ to this place where I arrived on the 21 of Decembr. I found the Indians of the Wabash in a very pacific State and a number of their Chiefs were at the Fort. they informed me of their great intention of making a Solid peace with the United States, and also expressed their fear from Kentuck. I told them that if they were sincere I had no doubt but the United States would grant them peace and that until Government was informed of their intention they Should be under the protection of the United States. I appointed from terre Haute which is twenty leagues above the Fort to the Mouth of the Wabash for their hunting ground—I have thought necessary to inform you of those circumstances to enable you to prevent any unlawful expedition, & should their be any to be Carry on against those people I have informed the Secretary at War and the Governor of the Disposition of the Indians and Suppose that some thing will be Done—I am informed that the Indians who defeated the army§ were 1500 Strong that it was on a Branch of the Wabash and about three days march from the Miamie let me my Dear Sir offer you the Compliments of the Season may you have many years and them in happiness—I have the honour to be Sir with very great Respect and esteem your most obedient and very humble Servant

J. F. HAMTRAMCK

*John Francis Hamtramck was a native of Quebec. His father migrated from Luxembourg to Canada in 1749 and there married Marie Anne Bertin. John Francis was born Aug. 14, 1754, embraced the American cause and in 1776 joined Montgomery's army at the seige of Quebec. He was appointed captain of U. S. Infantry in 1785 and major next year. He was stationed at Cincinnati in 1789, was with Wayne in 1794 and came to Detroit with him in 1796. He was in command of Detroit until his death April 11, 1803. He is buried in Mt. Elliott Cemetery, Detroit. He left no will. William Henry Harrison and John Rice Jones were two of the administrators of his estate.

†Fort Knox was built at Vincennes in 1788.

‡Arthur St. Clair was appointed governor of the North West Territory upon its formation in 1789. He held the office until 1802. He was commander-in-chief of the army operating against the Indians in 1791 and was surprised and defeated on Nov. 4th. of that year.

§Among these Indians were Little Turtle, and Blue Jacket. Simon Girty was also there. The army suffered a loss of 37 officers and 593 privates killed and missing and 31 officers and 252 privates wounded. Among the officers killed were Maj. Gen. Richard Butler and Col. Gibson who died of his wounds. The brutal killing of Butler is described in the "History of the Girtys" page 263. An interesting collection of papers was found on the body of Butler and remained in the possession of the Indians for 115 years when through a sale they came into the possession of C. M. Burton. They are printed in the "Magazine of History with notes and queries" Vol. V, page 344.

William H. Harrison to William McIntosh

From Original in Burton Historical Collection, Vol. 9, Page 192.

Greenfield Kentucky
3rd April 1801.

Dear Sir

I am informed by Judge Griffin* that the land which I bought of Vigo† was included in the Mortgage given to his Creditors at Detroit—if so I must ask the favor of you to get these gentlemen to release the Mortgage on Condition of my securing the purchase money to them—This I will do—& pay it in two equal annual payments Viz one half on the 1st of Jany next & the ballance the ensuing Jany. (1803) this will certainly be favorable for them as there is no chance of their getting the money from Vigo—but by foreclosing the Mortgage or in this way—I wish you could get Authority from this Company to release any other land which I may purchase from Vigo—& the payments of which to be made to them—

I shall set out for Vincennes in a few days where I hope to see you soon—

I am with great Regard
Your Humb Servt.
Willm H. Harrison‡

Willm McIntosh§ Esq.

[Endorsed on back of letter in Mr. McIntosh's hand writing:]
Write to my Brot. to send me power to release on acct. of the Co. such lands as Vigo has sold now which may encourage the Govt. to buy more.

*Judge John Griffin was one of the Federal judges appointed when Indiana Territory was organized. He was appointed judge in Michigan Territory when it was formed in 1805. He was a native of Virginia and son of Cyrus Griffin, last president of the Continental Congress. He left Detroit in 1824 and went to Philadelphia where he died about 1840. (Governor and Judges' Records—Proceedings of the Land Board of Detroit, Detroit 1915, page 151.)

†Col. Francis Vigo was a native of Sardinia, born about 1747. He came to New Orleans as a Spanish soldier but soon left military service and locating at an Indian village on the site of the present City of St. Louis, became a successful Indian trader. After Gen. Clark captured Vincennes Col. Vigo went there to take up a land grant and remained there until his death in 1836. He was successful for a time and became a large land owner. He however lost everything and at the time of his death was an object of charity. See the "Hundred Year Land Suit" in Western Reserve pamphlets.

‡William Henry Harrison, third son of Benjamin Harrison, signer of the Declaration of Independence, ninth president of the United States was born in 1773 and died in 1841. He began the study of medicine but was so aroused by accounts of the Indian outrages that he gave up his studies and entered the army. In 1792 he joined Wayne and fought against the Indians until 1798 when peace was made. In that year he served as secretary of the Northwest Territory and in 1799 was territorily delegate to Congress. In 1802 he was appointed governor of Indiana Territory and superintendent of Indian affairs. In the war of 1812 he won a decisive victory over the English at the Battle of the Thames. He died one month after his inauguration, and Tyler, his vice-president, finished his term.

§William McIntosh, a brother of Angus McIntosh. See note on page 22, this volume.

William H. Harrison to Henry Dearborn, Sec. of War

Photostat from Original in the War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes, 3rd March 1805.

Sir:

Such has been the irregularity of the mails from the severity of the Winter that your favor of the 17th of January did not reach me until a few days ago—The same cause must have retarded my letter of the 14th of Dec., which I suppose had not been received when yours of the above date was written.

Captn. Wells* has certainly not exerted himself to pacify the Indians who have taken offence at the late treaties with the Delawares and Piankeshaws. It is equally certain that the disaffected are not numerous as he has stated them to be and that those who have expressed discontent have been instigated thereto entirely by the Turtle.† Whether the Idea of opposition to those Treaties originated with himself or with Mr. Wells, I cannot determine but that the opinions of the one are always the opinions of the other I have long known. The Turtle has considerable influence over the Five Medals‡ and some other of the Putawatimie Chiefs, and I believe that Captain Wells and himself controle entirely the small band of Eel River Indians. But when Wells speaks of the Miami Nation being of this or that opinion he must be understood as meaning no more than the Turtle and himself. Nine tenths of that tribe who acknowledge Richardville and Peccan for their chiefs (but who are really governed by an artful fellow called the Owl or long beard whom you once saw at the seat of Government), utterly abhor both Wells and the Turtle On this occasion however they may have been induced to join in the clamor from the expectation of deriving some advantage from it. After a

*William Wells was born about 1770 in Kentucky. When twelve years old he was carried off by a band of Miami Indians and adopted into the family of their chief, Little Turtle. He married the daughter of the chief and became very much attached to the tribe. In 1790 and 1791 he fought with the Indians against the Americans but later was persuaded by his family to leave the Indians and join the army. He bade his Indian friends farewell and became a captain of scouts in Wayne's army. He had many thrilling adventures and was killed at the massacre of Fort Dearborn, Aug. 15, 1812.

†Little Turtle or Me-she-kin-no-quah was born in 1752 twenty miles northwest of Fort Wayne. His father was a Miami chief and his mother a Mohican. He was made a chief because of his talents when young. He was with Burgoyne in his campaign against Saratoga in 1777. From 1780 he was leader of the Miamis in various war expeditions and upon one of these captured William Wells. In 1791 he lead the Indians against St. Clair and defeated him. In 1794 he was defeated by Wayne and signed the Treaty of Greenville in 1796. After this he remained a trusty friend of the Americans. Washington presented him with a sword which was buried with him. In 1797 he visited Philadelphia and had his portrait made. He died July 14, 1812 in his lodge a short distance north of the confluence of the St. Mary and the St. Joseph Rivers. (Ohio Arch. and Hist. Soc. Publ. Vol. XXIII, pages 105-149.)

‡Five Medals was the name of a Pottawattamie chief who lived in an Indian village which took its name from the chief. The village was on the Elkhart river near the town of Goshen and was destroyed by the Americans in 1812.

careful and dispassionate consideration of the subject I can see no reason to alter the opinion I had formed that neither the Miamis nor the Putawatimies have any just claim either in common or otherwise to any part of the tract ceded to the United States by the Delawares and Piankeshaws. The Delawares claim to that particular tract was derived from Present occupancy and from a grant said to have been made to them upward of thirty years ago by the Piankeshaws. When the French first descended the Wabash the Piankeshaws were found in the possession of the Country on either side of that River from its Mouth at least as high up as the Vermilion & the possession of it has never been disputed excepting by the Delawares who claimed under the Piankeshaws & the Weas who have occupied the country above Point Coupee since their towns at Ouiatanon* were destroyed by Genrl. Scott and Wilkinson in the year 1791.

That the Piankeshaws are a tribe of the large Confederacy which obtained the appilation of Miami from the superior size of the particular tribe to which that name more properly belongs is not denied. The tie however which united them with their brethren has become so feeble that for many years past the connection has been scarcely acknowledged. For a considerable time anticedent to the treaty of Greenville the Piankeshaws found it necessary to adopt a different policy from that which was pursued by the tribes their allies. Three considerable bodies of men led into the heart of their country by General Clark between the years 1779-1786, convinced them that their union with the Miamis could not afford them the safety & protection which was no doubt the object of it—Several conferences were held between General Clark & his officers and their chiefs which resulted in the establishment of peace between them and the United States.

The proceedings at one of their conferences is preserved in Imlays History of Kentucky Vol. 2 page 79, and no mention is made of the Miami nation.

The assertion of Wells in his letter to you of the 7th Dec., that for upwards of 20 years which he had known the Indians in the quarter nothing of importance had ever been transacted by the Piankeshaws & Kaskaskias without the consent of the Miamis is a notorious falsehood. A treaty was made at this place in the year 1792 by Genl. Putnam with the Piankeshaws and Weas and peace established between those tribes & the United States. The Miamis were not parties to this Treaty and continued their hostilities against us until they were compelled to sue for peace, in the year 1795. Mr. Wells was present at Putnam's Treaty and I believe was employed as an interpreter.

*Brig. Gen. Scott of Kentucky on June 1st, 1791 attacked the towns at Ouiatanon, which were located on the Wabash about eight miles below the present site of Lafayette, and killed and made prisoners the Indians and destroyed their crops. In August of the same year, Brig. Gen. James Wilkinson returning from an expedition on the Wabash again destroyed the crops, which the Indians had replanted.

Altho the language, custom and manners of the Kaskaskios make it sufficiently certain that they derive their origin from the same source as the Miamis, the connexion had been dissolved even before the French had penetrated from Canada to the Mississippi. At that time a confederacy of Five tribes existed in the Illinois country composed of the Tribes called the Peorios, Kaskaskios, Mitchigamia, Cahokios and Tomasais. There are persons now alive who remember when those confederates could bring into the field upward of 2,000 warriors. A long and unsuccessful war with the Sacs (in which they received no assistance from the Miamis) has reduced them to the contemptable band which follows Ducoigne* and a remnant of Peorios who Procure a miserable subsistance by begging and stealing from the inhabitants of St. Genevieve.

And even these wretched beings have been prosecuted by those very Putawatimies who according to Mr. Wells have been and still are so closely united with the Miamis with which they are said to form one Nation. The fear of extirpation by the Potawatimies was one of the principal inducements with the Kaskaskios to commit themselves entirely to the protections of the United States.

The Kaskaskia Tribe never lifted the Tomahawk against the United States. The Miamis during the whole war with the North Western Indians were amongst the most active of their enemies and the most difficult to bring to a final accomodation.

The Piankeshaws altho they gave assistance to the other tribes in the commencement of the war seceded from the Confederacy and made peace with us three years before the Miamis.

If then the Piankeshaws and Kaskaskios were competent to the important concerns of making Peace and War without the consent of the Miamis, they must be equally so to sell land, which is acknowledged by theirs & which is no longer useful to them. The treaty of Greenville contains nothing to authorize the belief that those two Tribes were considered at that time dependent upon the Miamis. None of their chiefs were present—they did not think it necessary to go, as one of them had never been at war with the United States & the other had made peace three years before. But it was considered just that they should participate in the bounty of the United States—for that purpose their names were introduced into the Treaty and the Weas (not the Miamis), their nearest neighbours were requested to sign for them.

Inclosed is an address of the Turtle to Wells which he desired might be sent to me for the Purpose of convincing me that the

*Jean Baptist Decoinge may have been a son of an old interpreter who was located at Niagara in 1778 and appears on the British pension rolls in 1795. (Illinois Hist. Colls. Vol. I, page 351 and Mich. Pion. Colls. Vol. 25, page 108.) In 1781 he visited Virginia and was for a short time in the army under Lafayette. He favored the American cause and on account of this his life was constantly in danger. He aided Clark in the capture of Kaskaskia and held a council with St. Clair at that place in 1790. About 1793 he visited George Washington and Congress. He was small, active and intelligent. He had a daughter Ellen who married a white man and received a tract of land of about 350 acres near Kaskaskia, by an Act of Congress. May 3, 1793.

Piankeshaws had no right to sell their lands. I can see nothing in it however to weaken what I have advanced above. It is my decided opinion that the U. S. have the right to treat with either of the tribes who were parties to the Treaty of Greenville. Motives of humanity will always prevent them from purchasing land which cannot be conveniently spared and the interest of those who without having any just claim to the land but who may derive their support from it, will be attended to. Their principles are exemplified by the Treaties made with *two* tribes for one tract of land when a complete and legal title might perhaps have been obtained by the extinction of the claims of one.

The Tract purchased of the Delawares and Piankeshaws is not nor ever has been since my arrival in this country frequented as a Hunting ground by either the Miamis or Putawatimies. None of the Indians go there to hunt buffaloes (as Mr. Wells has asserted) not an animal of that kind having been seen within that tract for several years, nor is its generally flat surface well calculated for the residence of bears.

The Putawatimies so far from having any claim to land on the South East side of the Wabash acknowledged that they have trespassed upon the Miamis by settling on the north bank of that river & it has been an object with the Turtle & Wells for several years to get them to remove.

You will perceive by my letter to Mr. Wells a copy of which was inclosed in mine to you of the 14th Dec., that I had directed him to send the Putawatimie and Miami Chiefs to me at this place —The Little Turtle has declined the invitation and gives the artful and mischievious reason which you will see in the enclosed address & I am presuaded that he will make every exertion in his power to prevent my seeing the Putawatimie at any other place than Fort Wayne.

I do not know whether Wells has informed the Putawatimies Chiefs of my wishes to have an interview with them in his answer to my letter he contents himself with announcing the refusal of the Turtle.

As there can be no doubt but that every thing that can be advanced in favor of the Miami claim is to be found in the Turtle's address to the President, in that to Mr. Wells & in Wells's own letters the matter will be fully before the President & I must beg for further instructions. Unless it is determined to admit the principle that the Delawares and Piankeshawa had no right to sell their land without the consent of the Miamis, Putawatimies etc., it will be improper in my opinion to have a public conference on the subject as it will be necessary to invite not only the chiefs of those two tribes but those of the Weas, Eel River, Kickapoo and Shawanoe Tribes & I know that they can never be *convinced* without a gratification which will considerably exceed the original purchase money.

From the enclosed address of Wells, which is said to have been made to the Miami Chiefs, but which I am convinced was made to the Turtle alone). I am afraid that he has misunderstood your instructions. He assures the Indians that if they can shew, a just claim to the land in question *restitution* will instantly be made. He uses the same expression in the letter which enclosed the address.

The violent opposition which the Turtle has made to the Delaware and Piankeshaw treaties is easily accounted for. Concious of the superiority of his Talents over the rest of his race & colour he sighs for a more conspicuous theatre to display them. Opportunities for exhibiting his eloquence occur too seldom to satisfy his vanity and the subjects which are generally discussed in the councils of the few chiefs who adhere to him, are too contemptable to gratify his ambitions. A closer connexion among the neighbouring Tribes and a regular convention of their chiefs has long been the ruling wish of his heart & the object of numberless intrigues.

An attachment for his person, a submissive defference to his talents, or a supposed coincidence of interests has caused the Agent of the United States to adopt the opinions and promote the views of the Turtle to the utmost extent of his public as well as private influence. The propriety of delivering at Fort Wayne the annuities for the Tribes on the lower part of the Wabash & of obliging them (the Wea's particularly) to remove to the neighbourhood of that place & the benifts that would result to the United States as well as the Indians by an annual assemblage of the chiefs of all the Tribes at which all business was to be transacted has been often pressed upon me. The Treaties with the Kaskaskios, the Dellawares and Piankeshaws Tribes has given a mortal stab to this favourite scheme and altho I am convinced that very few of the Indians feel any injury from those Treaties it is very easy to pursuade them that they have been injured.

Captn. Wells's conduct in this affair certainly deserves severe animadversion I think it probable however that he did not foresee the consequences of it to the public interest and that some ridiculous *spice* of jealousy towards myself may have mingled itselt with his motives. In order to prevent the like in future & to secure a just & proper dependance upon the head of the Department I must take the liberty to recommend that he may be informed by you that the Approbation of the President and the Continuance of his favour will depend up on the reports which I may make of the zeal and fidelity with which he seconds me in executing the orders of the government. There is perhaps no department which requires greater unanimity amongst the agents than that which has the management of Indians affairs. The jealousy of those people is so easily excited that a single artful observation is frequently sufficient to defeat the best concerted plan even when on the point of conclusion.

I was not present when the Miamis recognised the Title of the Delawares to the country between the White River and the Ohio, but I have no doubt of the fact it came to my knowledge in the following manner:—I did myself the honor to inform you after my returning from Fort Wayne in the year 1803: That the Owl or long beard had with very considerable address prevented the great body of the Miamis from attending my summons to meet me at Fort Wayne for the purpose of receiving their Annuities & concluding the Treaty, the preliminaries of which had been fixed at this place the proceeding fall—& that after waiting for them a considerable time, I was forced to content myself with the signatures of Richardville, the Sachem of the nation & the Turtle. Two days after the Treaty* had been signed and at the very moment of my departure, the Owl arrived with a principal chief called Peccan,† a number of minor chiefs & 100 or 150 warriors. It was a matter of importance to expose to the Miamis the arts of the Owl & to explain to them the Conditions of the Treaty. A council was therefore appointed for the next day and all the chiefs of the other Tribes who were still within reach (for some of them had returned), were requested to attend. The time for the meeting of the council arrived but neither the Miamis nor the Delawares appeared. After waiting for them a considerable time I was informed that those two tribes were in council together, & soon time after the Delawares arrived—there were then with me, General Gibson, Mr. Wells, The Turtle & a few of his followers & some Putawatimies Chiefs, Titiboski,‡ the Delaware Sachem produced a belt of Wampum & addressing himself to me through Genrl. Gibson observed that the Miami Chiefs had that morning with the consent of all the warriors acknowledged their right to the land between the White River and the Ohio and had given them that Wampum to commemorate the transaction — The Miamis joined us immediately after and as soon as I had reproached them with their improper & disrespectful conduct & explained the artifices by which the Owl had mislead & embarrased their affairs I was obliged to leave the conclusion of the council to Mr. Wells & set out on my return as I had upwards of thirty miles to ride on that day to the place where my boat had been left on the Wabash & the water was falling so rapidly as to make the utmost expedition necessary to secure my passage—The Miamis were induced to take this step by the persuasions of the Owl and

*Up to this time Harrison had made five treaties with the Indians of the Indiana Territory, the first on June 7, 1803, the second Aug. 7th, 1803, third on Aug. 13, 1803, fourth on Aug. 18, 1804, fifth on Aug. 27, 1804. The Miamis had figured in the first as mentioned and under the circumstances here related. The following summer Aug. 21, 1805 Harrison succeeded in getting them to join in the treaty at Grouseland near Vincennes.

†Peccan succeeded Little Turtle as representative of the Miamis and signed a treaty at Greenville in July, 1814. He died soon after and was succeeded by Chief Richardville.

‡Titiboski, also spelled Teteboxti, Tatepocoshi and Tethtepoxske.

his object was to strengthen his party by gaining over the Delawares—An object which engaged the Turtle's attention at that time also—the charges which the Turtle has brought against me in his address to the President I would have passed over without an observation if he had not hinted at the use of unfair means in procuring the consent of the Indians to the treaties I have made with them, and as I have never before that I recollect informed you of my mode of proceeding on those occasions I have thought it proper to do so at the present moment. Whenever the Indians have been assembled for any Public purpose the use of ardent spirits has been strictly interdicted until the object for which they were convened was accomplished & if in spite of my vigilance it had been procured a stop was immediately put to all business until it was consumed & its affects completely over. Every conference with the Indians has been in public. All persons who choose to attend were admitted and the most intelligent and respectable characters in the neighbourhood specially invited to witness the fairness of the transaction. No treaty has ever been signed until each article was particularly and repeatedly explained by the most capable and confidential interpreters. Sketches of the tract of country about to be ceded have always been submitted to the Indians & their own rough delineations made on the floor with a bit of charcoal have proved their perfect comprehension of its situation and extent.

As I am convinced that it will be almost impossible to get the Miami & Putawatimie Chiefs here under present circumstances, I shall hold myself in readiness to proceed to Fort Wayne immediately upon the receipt of your answer when I hope to be indulged with your particular instructions—By an indirect channel I am informed that it is in contemplation to continue the United States road which is completed as far as Dayton on the Miamis to this place I fear that it will be very difficult to prevail on the Indians to consent to it.

Richardville* the Sachem or Principal Chief of the Miamis whose father was a Frenchman carries on a small trade with that tribe—He generally procures his goods on the British side of the lakes and the Duties have always been exacted from him by the Collector† of Detroit contrary in my opinion to the Treaty with Great Britain—He has applied to me for redress, if you should think as I do I must beg your interference to releive him from the

*Richardville was a distinguished Miami chief born about 1761 near the confluence of the St. Mary and St. Joseph Rivers. His father was Druet de Richardville, a French trader and his mother an Indian, Tau-cum-wa. She was a woman of much influence with her tribe, had a monopoly of the portage and transportation business on the Maumee and Wabash rivers for many years, and was supposed to have amassed a considerable fortune. John Baptist Richardville or Pe-she-wa (Wild cat) was her only son. He became the leader of the Miamis after the death of Peccan in 1814. He died in 1841 aged about 80 years. (Brice's Fort Wayne, pages 22, 280, 285, 314.) Thatcher's Indian Biography, Vol. II, states that he was a nephew of Little Turtle.

†Matthew Ernest was collector at Detroit from 1799-1805 and was succeeded by Joseph Wilkinson who held that office from June 1805-June 1806.

Duties in future—There is no doubt of his attachment to our interests.

I have lately received intelligance from the Arkansaw informing me that the Osages have plundered the Traders & other inhabitants upon that River to an immense amount.

I have the Honor to be with perfect esteem and respect

The Hon.
Henry Dearborn, Esq.
Secry. of War.

Your Hum. Servt.,
Willm. Henry Harrison.

Indian Chiefs to Capt. Wells

Photostat from Copy in War Department, Washington, D. C.

Copy.

White River, March 30, 1805.

Our Nephew:

We send to you our Nephew William Patterson, to Counsell with you, we wish that you will listen to what he says concerning of Governor Harrisons purchasing a large Tract of Land, we know nothing of it, we have not in our power to sell land and more than that it is contrary to the articles of the Treaty of Greenville therefore we send to you the writing the Governor gave us, when he gave it to us, he told us that it was an instrument of writing to keep peace and frienship among us—therefore we wish that you will see into it and let the President our Father know that the purchase is unlegal and that he may take such measures as will prevent it from being settled, this is all, but you will listen to what Patterson says, as we cannot have all wrote what we wish to say, this is all at present but remain your Uncles.

(Signed) Tethtepoxske,* his mark X
Capt. " Buckingehelas,† his mark X
William Wells. " Hockingpomskon, his mark X

I certify that the foregoing is a true translation of what the above signed chiefs said to William Wells.

(Signed) John Connor.

*Tethtepoxske was at this time an aged and venerable chief of the Delawares. He fell a victim of the wiles of Elskwatawa, the Prophet, Tecumseh's brother. He met his death after having been accused of being a witch. He died about 1807 aged eighty years. His wife and nephew "Billy" Patterson were also marked by the Prophet and doomed to be burned. His wife escaped but "Billy" was burned. "Billy" Patterson had resided many years with the whites and was a gun-smith by trade. He died singing and praying. (Thatcher's Indian Biography, Vol. II, pp. 197-198.)

†Buckongahelas was a Delaware chief who rose from the station of private warrior to be the head war chief of his nation. He was in sympathy with the British but after Wayne's victory decided upon immediate peace with the United States. He was among those who objected to the treaties which Harrison was making. He must have died shortly after signing this letter. (Thatcher's Indian Biography, Vol. II, p. 180.)

The Address of William Patterson, a Delaware Indian Chief, to William Wells, Agent of Indian Affairs, Delivered at Fort Wayne in the Indiana Territory, April 5, 1805.

Photostat from Original in War Department, Washington, D. C.

Friend and Brother! Listen to what I now say to you I am sent by the chiefs of my nation to speak the following words to you.

Friend and Brother! my chiefs take you by the hand and salute you and inform you that it has pleased God that they should see another spring.

Friend and Brother! my chiefs inform you that their minds are troubled concerning the visit they made Governor Harrison last summer at Vincennes they were invited to that place by the Governor and on their arrival they were much pleased to hear him say that he wished to brighten the chain of Friendship between the White and Red people and that he had invited them to see them for that purpose.

Friend and Brother! Our chiefs was told by the Governor that he wished them to become more civilized and that he would give them an addition to their annuity of Five hundred dollars a year to enable them to procure the necessary articles for the purpose of enabling them to cultivate their Lands and that he was present when the Miamies gave all White River to the Delawares and that he would give them an instrument of writing that would show that the country on White River belonged to the Delawares—he farther told our Chiefs that the Piankieshaws did not acknowledge the right of the Delawares to the lands on the White River, but he would satisfy them on this head and would give them money out of his own pocket in order to get them to acknowledge the right of the Delawares to the lands on White River, and that the road from Vincennes to the Falls should in future be the boundary line between the lands of the Delawares and Piankeshaws.

Friend and Brother!! When these words was spoke to our chiefs by the Governor they were much pleased with what he said the Governor then wrote two papers which he told our chiefs contained the words he had just spoken, to them and that he wished them to sign them both that he would send one to the President of the United States and one they could keep themselves in order that the good words he had spoke might be kept in remembrance by the White and Red people our chiefs chearfully signed these papers.

Friend and Brother!! you may judge how our chiefs felt when they returned home and found that the Governor had been shut-

ting up their eyes and stopping their ears with his good words and got them to sign a deed for their lands without their knowledge.

Friend and Brother!! the chiefs of my nation now declare to you from the bottom of their hearts in the presence of God that they never sold Governor Harrison, or the United States any land at Vincennes last summer to their knowledge.

Friend and Brother, my chiefs well remember that all disputes between, them and the United States are to be settled in a peaceable manner and I am directed by them to tell you that they place confidence in you and it is their wish that you take such immediate steps as may appear to you to be best for bringing about a fair understanding on the subject of the Treaty that it appears they signed last summer at Vincennes, and that you as soon as possible inform our great father the President of the United States how Governor Harrison, has attempted to impose on his Red Children

Friend and Brother! my chiefs declare to you that they are not willing to sell the lands on the Ohio from the mouth of the Wabash to Clarks grant at the Falls and that they consider it out of their power to do any such thing without the consent of the other nations in this country.

Friend and Brother! my chiefs wishes you to prevent this land being settled by the White people.

Friend and Brother these are the words that was put in my mouth by the chiefs of my nation, in order that I might deliver them to you.

(Signed) Wm. Patterson, his X mark.

Signed in the presence of

(Signed) John Johnston,*
U. S. Factor.

(Signed) S. Owens, Lieut.,
1st Regt. Infy.

I certify that the above is a true translation of what William Patterson, a Delaware Chief, said to William Wells, this 5th Day of April 1805.

(Signed) John Connor.

*Col. John Johnston was born in Ballyshannon, Ireland in 1775 and died in Washington, D. C. in 1861. He came to Pennsylvania with his parents when a small boy. At seventeen he was in Wayne's army in the Quartermaster's Department. President Madison appointed him Indian Agent at upper Piqua and he held that position for 30 years. (Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio, Vol. II-III, p. 525.)

Rumors of War in the Missouri

Photostat from Original in War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes, 6th April 1805.

Sir:

For several weeks passed rumours of an approaching Indian war in the Missouri have reached me but I am well convinced that there is not the smallest foundation for them. The Indians on this side of the Mississippi have certainly nothing of the kind in view. As soon as I receive any information that can be depended on it shall be communicated.

I have the Honor to be with great respect Sir Your
Humble Servt.
Willm. Henry Harrison.

The Honble,
The Secretary of War.*

William H. Harrison to Henry Dearborn, Sec. of War

Photostat from Original in War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes, 26th April 1805.

Sir:—

The two papers herwith enclosed I received to-day from Captn. Wells. I am convinced that this man will not rest until he had pursuaded the Indians that their very existence depends upon the rescinding the treaty of the Delawares and Piankeshaws. My knowledge of his character induces me to believe that he will go any length or use any means to carry a favorite point, and much mischief may come from his knowledge of the Indians his cunning and his perseverance. If I had not informed you that I should wait here the arrival of your further orders I would set out tomorrow for Fort Wayne. I have lately learnt that Genrl. Wilkinson was soon expected in the Indian Country. He has considerable influence with the Miamis and particularly with the Turtle. I take the liberty to recommend that he may be associated with me for the purpose of satisfying the Indians. As soon as I receive your answer to my letter of the 1st ultimo unless it contains other instructions I will proceed to Cincinnatti where I can meet General Wilkinson in his passage down the Ohio, and we can then go to Fort Wayne together.

*Henry Dearborn was Secretary of War, 1801-1809.

The interruption to the General will not be great and the additional expense trifling. I shall be obliged to take General Gibson with me because I can get no interpreter of the Delaware Language at Ft. Wayne that can be depended on. And as he was the Interpreter to the Treaty with that Tribe it is necessary that he should be present at the explanations which take place in the presence of the other tribes.

If your expected letter should contain no positive instructions on the subject of my meeting the Indians at Fort Wayne but should leave it to be decided by myself unless some very unexpected circumstances should take place I will certainly go on.

I have the honor to be with great respect,
Sir your Humb. Servt.
Willm. H. Harrison.

Honble,
Henry Dearborn, Esq.,
Secy. of War.

P. Chouteau to William Henry Harrison

Photostat from Original in War Department, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Wm. Hy. Harrison, St. Louis, May the 22nd, 1805.
Governor, &c.
Sir:—

The barge of Capn. Lewis, arrived the day before yesterday he has sent by this opportunity Fourty-five chiefs or *consideres* of the nations; Ricaras, Poncas, Sioux of the tribes on the Missoury, Mahas, Ottos and Missourys in order that they may be conducted from here to the Federal City; I send you an express to give you notice of their arrival, they unanimously wish to undertake this journey, but as my instructions, whereof you have a perfect knowledge do not permit the departure of any Indian for the seat of Government without a special permission, I think it is my duty to wait your answer, before I give them mine and I hope that in the shortest time possible you will transmitt to me your orders and will direct my conduct on this occasion as minutely as possible

I will observe to you that I am ever in the same opinion that the warm season is very dangerous for these Indians, of whom perhaps a great number will fall victims to so long and penible journey in a climate so different from their own, and the nations should be certainly dissatisfyed and would have a defavorable idea of the government if the Indians now here don't come back safely amongst them. I think that the autumn and winter are the only proper season to undertake withe security that trip, if you were of the same opinion it would be convenient, I Beleive; that these

Indians stay here or not far from here in going from time to time to hunt in the neighborhood, what ever may be your opinion for the time of the departure I think that it will be necessary to call for some chiefs of the nations Sakias and Foxes who are called by the Government Which is already known to them, and also for some chief of the Sioux of the river des moens who are come here with Mr. Crawford and have asked for the same journey I promised to make them know the intentions of the government about it. As the expenses of the voyage will be in proportion to the number of the Indians which will amount to sixty at least perhaps you will find it convenient to send back to theyr nations some of them to bring the news of the departure of the others. Finally I Pray you to give me very particular instructions on every article, being desirous that my conduct maybe approved, fix, if you please, the certain epoch of the departure, the number of the Indian to be conducted, if some of them agree to go back fix the road to be taken and authorise me to expend which sums you will judge necessary.

I shall ever be ready to start with the Indian in all time and if I propose you some objections on the season it is only to avoid reproach from the government or from the Indians in the supposition that some unhappy event should arrive.

The party of Sioux conducted here by Mr. Dixon have started this morning satisfyed of the *presents* which I have given to them. As the contractor is in the impossibility to furnish me with the provisions Dayly Wanted, I will be obliged to buy them and I Beleive that it will be for his own account. Mr. Ewing, an interpreter and another man wanted by him will start in a few days for the Sakias.

I remain with the gretest consideration.

Sir

Your very humble and obed. Servt
P. Chouteau.* agt.

Unsigned Letter from William H. Harrison

Photostat from Original in War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes, 27th May 1805.

Sir:—

I have this moment received your favour of the 22nd instant. The arrival of the Indians from the upper parts of the Missouri at

*John Pierre Chouteau, Sr. was born in New Orleans Oct. 10, 1758 and came to St. Louis at the age of six. He devoted most of his life to Indian trade and had a post at the headwaters of the Osage river, trading with the Osages, Kansas Indians, Pawnees etc. When the Americans came into possession of the country he was made Sub Indian Agent for his old friends. He married twice and had nine children, eight boys and one girl. He was a younger brother of Col. Auguste Chouteau, Sr. (Billon's Annals of St. Louis in its Territorial Days 1804-1821.)

this particular time is certainly an unfortunate circumstance. After as full a consideration of the affair as the time will allow I have determined as follows: You will please to state to the Indians the inconveniences that will attend their going on at present and explain to them your arrangement for their spending the summer in the Neighbourhood of St. Louis. If they should readily agree to it that plan will be adopted. If on the contrary they should express a wish to go on you will proceed immediately to make the necessary arrangements and set out for this place with all the expedition in your power—expedition is the more necessary as the President and the Heads of Departments will be absent from the seat of Government after the month of June. It is impossible for me at this distance to prescribe to you in the detail the arrangements necessary for your outfit in this Trip. I must therefore leave it entirely to yourself relying upon your Judgements and Economy that no expenses will be gone into but such as the due execution of the object requires. I therefore hereby authorize you to draw upon the Secretary of War, for such sums as may be required for the purchase of Horses and other necessaries for the Trip.

On your arrival at this place you will receive more particular instructions. If any engagement for interpreters has been made and no particular objection can be made to their integrity or Capacity you will please to employ them. An English interpreter will also be necessary. You will also please to apply to Major Bruff for an escort as far as this place when you will be furnished with one to take you to the Ohio.

I wish very much to send on a few of the Sioux, of the Demoin and some Sacs, and Foxes, and if you can get them ready to go on with the others do so. Every exertion in your power must be made to deminish the number by sending back as many of those that have come down the Missouri as you can get to go back—give them a few articles that will be acceptable and send them with a speech to their nation informing them of the departure of their friends for the seat of Government.

I am very respectfully,
Your Humble Servant.

Pierre Chouteau Esquire,
Agent of Indian Affairs,
Saint Louis.

William Henry Harrison to Henry Dearborn

Photostat—Original in War Department, Washington, D. C.

Vincennes 27th May 1805.

Sir:—

The enclosed letter from Mr. Choteau I received this day by a special messenger and have returned him a answer of which the enclosed is a copy (No. 2.). If the Indians should now go forward to the seat of Government, I will dispatch them as quickly as possible. On their arrival at this place I will have them innoculated* with the vaccine disease that they may avoid the small pox which is at this time in Kentucky. I have directed Mr. Choteau to go on with them because he is better acquainted with their manners and their wants than any other person that could be procured. A party of Sioux of the Mississippi have lately visited St. Louis for the purpose of delivering up one of their warriors who had killed two Canadians the servants of a trader in their country but upon examination it appeared that the Indian killed them in his own defense and that they were the aggressors. He was accordingly permitted to return with his friends upon conditions of his being delivered up at any time hereafter when he should be demanded. Enclosed (No. 3.) is a letter from a friend of mine on the spot which gives a particular account of the transaction.

The respect which has been manifested towards the United States by this numerous and warlike tribe and the favorable reception which Captains Lewis† and Clark‡ have met with from

*As early as 1783 when an epidemic of smallpox broke out among the soldiers at Three Rivers, Canada, many doctors went from distant parts to obtain specimens for inoculation and to compare results. As there was a difference of opinion as to its benefits, the experiments were ordered stopped. Haldemand wrote that he feared the consequences of carrying smallpox by this means to the Indians. He expressed his displeasure with Dr. John de Courcy Gill, who was one of the most active. On Nov. 2, 1783, an order was issued that all matter for inoculation carried from Quebec should be placed under guard. (Canadian Archives, B. 127, pp. 333, 340, 396; B. 128, p. 125; B. 197, pp. 321, 323, 331; B. 213, pp. 71, 97, 101. Mich. Pion. Colls., Vol. 20, p. 198.) The Century Dictionary places the date of the first vaccination upon a human subject at a later date.

†Meriwether Lewis was born in 1774 and died 1809. In 1794 he volunteered in troops that were called out to quell the whiskey insurrection in west Pennsylvania. He entered the regular service in 1795 and became a captain in 1800. From 1801-3 he was private secretary to President Jefferson and was sent by him on an expedition to the Pacific. He set out in the summer of 1803 and was joined by Capt. Clark, a company of nine Kentucky young men, fourteen soldiers, two Canadian boatmen, an interpreter, a hunter and a negro servant of Capt. Clark's. In the spring of 1804 they began the ascent of the Missouri river, spending the winter with the Mandan Indians, and on April 7, 1805, continued their ascent until the middle of July. They crossed the continent and on the 15th of November reached the mouth of the Columbia river, where they passed the winter. In March, 1806, they began their return journey. Lewis was made governor of the territory of Missouri after his return. (Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography.)

the Tribes of the Missouri augures well to our affairs in that quarter and forms a striking contrast to the conduct of some of the more neighbouring tribes which have been treated by our Government with the utmost tenderness and indulgence. In my last letter I informed you that it was my intention to set out for Fort Wayne unless the Instructions I expected to receive from you should otherwise direct.

Upon more mature deliberations I have been induced to abandon my opinion of the propriety of that step; first from the probability that my services will shortly be required here to hold a session of the Legislature§ & secondly because I think it would be a sacrifice of that dignity and authority which it is necessary to observe in all our transactions with the Indians. We are not concious of having done them any wrong but as they pretend to think otherwise they have been invited to come forward and state their grievances. And every assurance has been given that for any injury which may have unintentionally been done them ample remuneration shall be made. As they have declined this invitation I think it would be improper for us to discover too much solicitude to give them satisfaction lest they would attribute that to fear which is purely the effect of Justice and benevolence. An error which the Indians above all the people in the world are prone to imbibe. As it is very possible however that they may have been imposed upon by false statements and misrepresentations, I conceived it to be a matter of importance to remove from their minds every false impression—to ascertain whether the uneasiness and alarm really exists amongst them to the extent that has been spoken of and to discover who the persons are (for that there are such I am perfectly convinced) who excite their jealousy and feed their discontent. For these purposes I have dispatched General Gibson to the Delawares and Col. Vigo to the Miamis and Putawatimies. Upon their return I shall be enable to give you satisfactory information on every subject connected with their mission.

‡William Clark was born in 1770 and died at St. Louis Sept. 1, 1838. He was a younger brother of George Roger Clark and removed with his family to Kentucky in 1784 to the site of the present city of Louisville, where his brother had built a fort. Here he became acquainted with the Indian customs. He was an ensign at 18 and appointed lieutenant of infantry March 7, 1792. He was made adjutant and quartermaster in 1793, but resigned in July, 1796, on account of ill health. Soon after he removed to St. Louis and in March, 1804, was appointed second lieutenant of artillery, with orders to join Capt. Lewis on his expedition across the Rockies. He was the principal military director of the expedition, and his knowledge of Indians had much to do with the success of the enterprise. He kept a journal which was published. He was appointed governor of Missouri Territory in 1813 and held that office until 1821, when it became a state. In 1822 President Monroe appointed him superintendent of Indian affairs at St. Louis and he held this until his death. (Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography.)

§The legislature convened on July 29 in response to a call of June 7 and consisted of seven representatives—Jesse B. Thomas, Davis Floyd, Benjamin Parke, John Johnson, Shadrach Bond, William Biggs and Dr. George Fisher and five councilors, Benjamin Chambers, Samuel Gwathmey, John Rice Jones, Pierre Menard and John Hay. (Indiana, a Redemption from Slavery, by J. P. Dunn, pp. 326-327.)

In the course of this spring I have seen all the chiefs of the Weas one excepted—a large deputation from the Kickapoos of the Prairie and other from those of the Vermilion River, almost the whole band of Eel River Indians and the only chief of the Delawares who was not present at the late treaty with that Tribe in none of these have I discovered the smallest signs of discontent—and I am pursuaded that if it does exist it exists no where but in the immediate neighborhood of Fort Wayne* and the Indians there are no more effected by the Treaties with the Delawares and Piankeshaws than the Mandanes† of the Missouri.

I received by the express from St. Louis a long letter from Captn. Clark the companion of Captn. Lewis. The dispatches for the President and for your department were not sent on which will delay their arrival at Washington nearly a fortnight. They passed the Winter with the Mandanes 1609 miles up the Missouri in Latd. 47° 21′ 47″ north Longde. and 101° 25 and had met with no material accident.

Your letter of the —— Febry. covering the President's pardon of the Sac Indian confined at St. Louis did not reach me until near two months after its date it was immediately forwarded to St. Louis, but unfortunately it did not arrive until the Indian had effected his escape from the Guard House—he was fired on by the centinel and the body of an Indian had lately been found near St. Louis with mark of buck shot in his head which is supposed to be the prisoner.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect and consideration.

Sir your Hum. Servt.,
Willm. Henry Harrison.

The Honble.
Henry Dearborn, Secy. of War.

MINUTES OF A COUNCIL HELD AT FORT WAYNE

On the 21st day of June, 1805, by General Gibson and Colonel Vigo—present the Delawares, Eel River and Miamies Indians.

Photostat—Original in War Department, Washington, D. C.

Genrl. Gibson—Governor Harrison your Father has sent Col. Vigo and myself to speak to you, what we say you may consider as coming from him, he is appointed by

*The district of the Miamis.

†The Mandans were a Siouan tribe of the northwest. At this time they numbered about 1250 and lived in two small villages on opposite sides of the Missouri River below the mouth of the Knife River.

your great Father, the President of the U. S. sole commissioner to transact business with his red children, within the Indian Territory, he has heard that a number of bad people have circulated a number of bad storys among you, he has also heard that your hearts are uneasy about it, that you cannot rest. In order to wipe off the impression made by those bad reports your Father, the Governor wishes the Tribes here present to send some of their principal chiefs to Vincennes to see him, he wishes us to assure you that the intentions of your Father towards you is good and that your interest and happiness is near to his heart. When you come to see him he will be able to remove all the uneasiness from your minds. In the meantime he desires you not to listen to any bad stories, or any lying birds that maybe flying about. We now request you to fix upon the time when it will be convenient for you to come and see the Governor, in order that he may have every thing ready for your accomodation, we will set off in two nights and would be happy to know what time you can set off—this is all we have at present to say to you.

Hockingpomskon‡—I am very glad to hear what you have said to us—you may depend on my going to Vincennes when I expect to have an opportunity of delivering my sentiments—.

The Little Turtle—I have listened to what you have said to us, the Miamies wishes for time to consider on the subject of your speech, we hope you will not think hard at our not making up our minds immediately, we want to consult the Eel River Indians who have just come in (at this time the Miamies and Eel River Indians retired from the council—in about an hour they returned when the Little Turtle proceeded) your children have listened to your words and to the words of their great Father thro' you, they have consulted together on what you have said they are afraid you are tired waiting, I have nothing to say to you I am no Miamie, I am only their interpreter—We can form no opinion at present on what you have said to us, we think it absolutely necessary to consult the Putawatimies before we can come to any conclusion about the time we are to go to Vincennes you will tell our Father the Governor the weather is now very warm and that we cannot say at what time we can come to see him. The Indians that live on the Wabash are convenient and can go along at any time, we wish to consult the Indians in this quarter before we come to a conclusion.

‡Hockingpomskon was one of the chiefs of the Delawares. He signed the Treaty of Greenville and was designated as one of the Sandusky Delawares. He signed the treaties of 1803, 1804 and 1805. He was absent from the treaty of Sept. 30, 1809, and William Anderson, a Delaware chief, signed for him. His name is also spelled Hawkinpumiska and Hockingpomskeen(kaan). (Indian Affairs. Treaties compiled and edited by Charles J. Kappler, Washington, 1904.)

Genl. Gibson—We wish that after consulting the Putawatimies and when you fix upon the time to come forward that you send your Father the Governor information in order that he may be prepared to receive you it is true the weather is now very warm but we hope that will not prevent you from coming forward as soon as possible to set all to right.

Little Turtle—We wish not to be hurried, we think it a matter of importance, we think we have reason to complain and we wish for time to deliberate on the subject.

Richardville—I should wish to attend the call of the Governor but my business calls me in another direction. The Indians are slow in their deliberations and wish for time——

Council adjourned.

In coming from the Council House to the Fort the Peccon addressed them as follows:

The Little Turtle has said that we wished for time to deliberate on what you have said to us, he (the Peccon) did not want to deliberate he wanted to go on to Vincennes now and would go at any time, the Turtle had no right to say the Indians wanted time to think on it, that was not the case, he said he would speak again to Genrl. Gibson and Col. Vigo.

J. J.*

William Wells to General John Gibson.

Photostat—Original in War Department, Washington, D. C.

Fort Wayne, 22nd June 1805.

Dear Sir:

I have been this moment requested by the Miamis and Eel River Indians to make the following communication to you in writing—

they say that they have no doubt but the Governor has sent you and Col. Vigo to call them to Vincennes but it appears absolutly necessary to them that you should shew them your writen instructions from the Governor for that purpose. Should you not be instructed in writing by the Governor to give them this invitation that you would be pleased to inform the Governor on your arivel at Vincennes that they wish him to confirm what you told them yesterday as they wished to imbrace the first oppertunity of making their sentiment know to the United States respecting the late treaty of Vincennes,†

*John Johnston.

†Delaware treaty was held Aug. 18, 1804.

and in the meantime they woud git themselves in readyness to met the Governor at Vincennes—I am requested to obtain your answer to this communication in writing it appeared that the Little Turtle was requested to wait on you this morning and to make this communication to you which he says he had done but has his Doubts whether you understood him or not.

I have the honor to be,

Sir your most Obt

W. Wells.

Genl. John Gibson.

(Continued)

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